

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13801 010549Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
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UNCLAS TOKYO 13801

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

PARIS FOR USOECD

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, JA
SUBJECT: JUNE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

REF: TOKYO 12077

1. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED JULY 28 THAT
UNEMPLOYED IN JUNE REACHED 1.26 MILLION OR 2.39 PCT
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, HIGHEST PERCENTAGE SINCE FEBRUARY
1959 AND SECOND HIGHEST SINCE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT BEGAN
ISSUING STATISTICS IN THIS FORM IN EARLY 1950S. UN-
EMPLOYMENT FIGURE REPRESENTS 30,000 INCREASE OVER
PREVIOUS MONTH OF MAY AND 150,000 INCREASE OVER JUNE
1977. AT SAME TIME TOTAL EMPLOYMENT REACHED 55.5
MILLION, HIGHEST FIGURE EVER RECORDED AND 180,000
INCREASE OVER MAY. EMPLOYMENT INCREASED IN ALL SECTORS
BUT PARTICULARLY IN MANUFACTURING (UP 1.7 PCT OVER MAY)
AND CONSTRUCTION (2.3 PCT). AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 13801 010549Z

WORKED PER WEEK, 47.7, MARKS SLIGHT DECLINE FROM MAY
FIGURE AT 48.1, BUT IS IMPROVEMENT OVER JUNE 77
FIGURE OF 47.4. RATE OF JOB OFFERS TO JOB APPLICANTS
(.54), WAS MARGINAL INCREASE OVER MAY FIGURE OF .53.

2. COMMENT: GOJ CONTINUES TO PUT POSITIVE INTERPRE-
TATION ON SLOW BUT STEADY RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

OVER LAST SIX MONTHS, ON GROUNDS IT HAS BEEN DUE
PRIMARILY TO RETURN OF PREVIOUSLY DISCOURAGED JOB
SEEKERS TO LABOR FORCE. IN ADDITION, IN DISCUSSING
JUNE STATISTICS, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE NOTED SUCH
FAVORABLE INDICATORS AS 1.1 MILLION INCREASE IN TOTAL
EMPLOYMENT SINCE JUNE 1977, 820,000 OF TOTAL
EMPLOYMENT INCREASE WERE JOBS FOR WOMEN (WHO HAD
GREATEST DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT IN LAST
FEW YEARS), SHARP RISE IN NUMBER OF JOBS IN CONSTRUC-
TION INDUSTRY(WHERE HEAVY GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN
PUBLIC WORKS HAVING DESIRED EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT)
AND DECREASE IN SIZE OF POPULATION OUTSIDE LABOR
FORCE. MANSFIELD

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